

Emergency Support Function #4 - Fire Fighting

Primary Department

Fire-EMS Department

Secondary/Support Department

Department of Technology
Emergency Management
Virginia Department of Forestry
Mutual Aid Agencies

I. Introduction

A. Purpose:

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 – Fire Fighting directs and controls operations regarding fire prevention, fire detection, fire suppression, rescue, and hazardous materials incidents; as well as to assist with warning and alerting, communications, evacuation, and other operations as required during an emergency.

B. Scope:

ESF #4 manages and coordinates fire-fighting activities including the detection and suppression of fires, and provides personnel, equipment, and supplies to support to the agencies involved in the firefighting operations.

C. Policies:

1. Priority is given to public and fire fighter safety and protecting property (in that order).
2. For efficient and effective fire suppression, mutual aid may be required from various local fire fighting agencies. This requires the use of the Incident Command System together with compatible equipment and communications.
3. Personnel will stay up to date with department specific procedures through education and training.

II. Concept of Operations

A. General:

1. The City of Roanoke Fire-EMS Department is prepared to assume primary operational control in fire prevention strategies, fire suppression, and hazardous material incidents (See the Hazardous Material Emergency Response Plan). Fire department personnel who are not otherwise engaged in emergency response operations will assist other local agencies in warning and alerting the public, evacuation, and communications as is necessary and appropriate during an emergency situation.

2. The Director of Emergency Management or his/her designee will determine the need to evacuate large areas and will issue orders for evacuation or other protective action as needed. However, the incident commander (Fire-EMS Officer on scene) may order an immediate evacuation prior to requesting or obtaining approval, if in his/her judgment this action is necessary in order to safeguard lives and property. Methods to evacuate will include REVERSE 911 © activation, Law Enforcement use of mobile loudspeakers, bullhorns, or canvas door to door to ensure that all affected residents have received the warning.
3. During an evacuation in which a large number of citizens are sheltered, the Fire-EMS Department may coordinate the positioning of an on site EMS basic life support unit to support the shelter operation.

B. Organization:

1. A fire representative will be assigned to the EOC in order to coordinate the fire service response. The fire representative will be a part of the EOC staff and will assist with the overall direction and control of emergency operations.
2. The Fire-EMS Department will implement evacuations and the Police Department will assist and provide security for the evacuated area. In the event of a hazardous materials incident, the Incident Commander should implement immediate protective actions to include evacuation as appropriate.
3. The Fire Department has 273 career fire-fighters and EMS personnel.

C. Actions:

1. Develop and maintain plans and procedures to provide fire, rescue, and EMS services in time of emergency;
2. Document expenses and continue for the duration of the emergency;
3. Check fire-fighting and communications equipment;
4. Fire-EMS representatives should report to the Local Emergency Operations Center to assist with operations;
5. Fire department personnel may be asked to assist with warning and alerting, evacuating, communications, and emergency medical transport;
6. Follow established procedures in responding to fires and hazardous materials incidents and in providing rescue services; and
7. Requests mutual aid from neighboring jurisdictions.

D. Responsibilities

1. Primary Department
 - a. Fire prevention and suppression;
 - b. Emergency medical treatment;
 - c. Hazardous materials incident response and training;
 - d. Radiological monitoring and decontamination;
 - e. Assist with evacuation;

- f. Search and rescue;
 - g. Temporary shelter for evacuees at each fire station;
 - h. Assist in initial warning and alerting;
 - i. Provide qualified representative to assist in the EOC;
 - j. Requests assistance from supporting agencies when needed;
 - k. Arranges direct liaison with fire chiefs in the area; and
 - l. Implements Mutual Aid.
2. Support Departments
- a. Provide technological, suppression and logistical support as requested.